WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A system for providing ticket information to a plurality of client computers via a network

2   connection, comprising:

3   (a)   a database containing the ticket information for at least restricted tickets different

4   from unrestricted tickets, wherein both the restricted tickets and the unrestricted tickets provide

5   access to an event and wherein the ticket information comprises at least availability information

6   and price information; and

7   (b)   an event server configured to:

8   (i)   access the database;

9   (ii)   dynamically determine a number of the restricted tickets to make available

10   for purchase in response to purchase orders received from the plurality of client computers;

11   and

12   (iii)   respond to the purchase orders received from the plurality of client

13   computers.

1   2.   The system of claim 1, wherein the event server is configured to respond to purchase

2   orders for the unrestricted tickets.

1   3.   The system of claim 1, wherein the event server is configured to respond to the purchase

2   orders by sending at least part of the ticket information to the plurality of client computers.

1   4.   The system of claim 1, wherein the event server is configured to dynamically determine

2   the number of the restricted tickets to make available for purchase by, after receiving at least one

3   purchase order, comparing an estimated number of remaining restricted tickets to a predetermined

4   range of restricted tickets and changing the number of restricted tickets to make available for

5   purchase if the estimated number of the remaining restricted tickets is outside of the

6   predetermined range.

1   5.   The system of claim 1, wherein the event server is configured to dynamically determine

2   the number of the restricted tickets to make available for purchase by periodically changing the

3   number in response to the number of purchase orders received.

1   6.   The system of claim 1, wherein the number of remaining restricted tickets is the difference

2   between a remaining portion of an initial number of the restricted tickets and an estimated number

3   of the restricted tickets to be sold in a remaining time period before an event date.

1   7.   The system of claim 1, wherein the network connection is the Internet.

1   8.   The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of client computers comprises a plurality of

2   dedicated stand-alone computers configured specifically for ticket purchases.

1   9.   The system of claim 1, wherein the restricted tickets are non-refundable and the

2   unrestricted tickets are refundable.

1   10.   The system of claim 1, wherein the event server is configured to dynamically determine

2   the number of the restricted tickets to make available for purchase by periodically changing the

3   number in response to the number of purchase orders received and a time period remaining before

4   an event occurs, wherein the event is made accessible to holders of the restricted and unrestricted

5   tickets.

1   11.   The system of claim 10, wherein the event is made conditionally accessible to holders of

2   the restricted tickets and unconditionally to holders of the unrestricted tickets.

1   12.   A signal bearing medium containing a program which, when executed by a processor,

2   performs a method to determine availability of restricted tickets different from unrestricted tickets,

3   the method comprising:

4   processing purchase orders for the restricted class of tickets received from a plurality of

5   client computers;

6   assessing, after processing at least one purchase order, whether a number of the restricted

7   class of tickets available for purchase meets a predetermined condition; and

8   if the predetermined condition is not met, changing the number of the restricted class of

9   tickets available for purchase to an adjusted number.

1   13.   The signal bearing medium of claim 12, further comprising, prior to processing the

2   purchase orders, determining an initial number of the restricted class of tickets to make available

3   for purchase.

1   14.   The signal bearing medium of claim 12, wherein the adjusted number is greater than the

2   assessed number of the restricted class of tickets available for purchase if the assessed number is

3   less than the threshold value.

1   15.   The signal bearing medium of claim 12, further comprising processing purchase orders for

2   unrestricted tickets.

1   16.   The signal bearing medium of claim 12, wherein the step of assessing comprises

2   periodically changing the number of the restricted class of tickets available for purchase to the

3   adjusted number in response to a number of purchase orders received and a time period remaining

4   before an event occurs, wherein the event is made accessible to holders of the restricted and

5   unrestricted class of tickets.

1   17.   The signal bearing medium of claim 12, wherein the restricted tickets are non-refundable

2   and the unrestricted tickets are refundable.

1   18.   The signal bearing medium of claim 12, wherein the predetermined condition is a

2   threshold value and wherein the adjusted number is less than the assessed number of the restricted

3   class of tickets available for purchase if the assessed number is less than the threshold value.

1   19.   The signal bearing medium of claim 18, wherein the predetermined condition varies with

2   time.

1   20.   The signal bearing medium of claim 12, wherein determining the initial number

2   comprises:

3   estimating a number of purchases of the restricted class of tickets;

4   determining whether the estimated number of purchases is less than a threshold; and

5   if not, setting the estimated number of purchases equal to the number of the restricted class

6   of tickets to make available.

1   21.   The signal bearing medium of claim 20 wherein estimating the number of purchases of the

2   restricted class of tickets is done according to a formula:

3           $N = (Total\_Tickets) - (P\_C)$; where N is the estimated number of purchases, Total_Tickets

4   is a total number of tickets possible according to a capacity of the event, P_C is a number of

5   purchases expected to made at the time of the event according an estimated total number potential

6   purchasers.

1   22.   A method for operating a server computer connected to a plurality of client computers via a

2   network, wherein the server computer is configured to determine availability of at least a restricted

3   class of tickets for an event accessible to holders of at least one of the restricted class of tickets and

4   an unrestricted class of tickets, wherein the restricted class of tickets have at least one limitation

5   not associated with the unrestricted class of tickets, the method comprising:

6   determining an initial number of the restricted class of tickets to make available for

7   purchase;

8   receiving purchase orders for the restricted class of tickets from the plurality of client

9   computers;

10   assessing, after processing at least one purchase order, whether a number of remaining

11   tickets of the restricted class of tickets meets predetermined conditions; and

12   if the predetermined condition is not met, changing the initial number of the restricted

13   class of tickets to an adjusted number.

1   23.   The method of claim 22, wherein the number of remaining tickets of the restricted class of

2   tickets is estimated according to at least a number of tickets sold and a number of tickets expected

3   to be sold in a remaining time period.

1   24.   The method of claim 22, wherein the predetermined condition changes with time.

1   25.   The method of claim 22, wherein the restricted class of tickets are non-refundable and the

2   unrestricted class of tickets are refundable.

1   26.   The method of claim 22, wherein the at least one limitation is one of a limitation on use,

2   transference and refund.

1   27.   The method of claim 22, wherein receiving purchase orders from the plurality of client

2   computers comprises receiving requests from a plurality of dedicated stand-alone computers

3   configured specifically for ticket purchases.

1   28.   The method of claim 22, wherein receiving purchase orders from the plurality of client

2   computers comprises receiving requests from a plurality of personal computers connected to the

3   server computer by a network connection.

1   29.   The method of claim 22, wherein changing the number of the remaining tickets to make

2   available comprises decreasing the number.

1   30.   The method of claim 22, wherein changing the number of the remaining tickets to make

2   available comprises one of decreasing the number and increasing the number.

1   31.   The method of claim 30, wherein if changing the number of the remaining tickets to make

2   available comprises decreasing the number, then further comprising stimulating sales of the

3   restricted class of tickets.

1   32.   The method of claim 22, wherein if the number of remaining tickets meets the

2   predetermined condition, then further comprising leaving the number of remaining tickets

3   available unchanged.

1   33.   The method of claim 22, wherein determining the initial number comprises:

2   estimating a number of purchases of the restricted class of tickets;

3   determining whether the estimated number of purchases is less than a threshold; and

4   if not, setting the estimated number of purchases equal to the number of the restricted class

5   of tickets to make available.

1   34.   The method of claim 33, wherein if the estimated number of purchases is less than the

2   threshold, requesting an increase in a number of instances of the event from an event sponsor.

1   35.   The method of claim 33, wherein estimating the number of purchases of the restricted

2   class of tickets is done according to a formula:

3         $N = (Total\_Tickets) - (P\_C)$; where N is the estimated number of purchases, Total_Tickets

4   is a total number of tickets possible according to a capacity of the event, P_C is a number of

5   purchases expected to made at the time of the event according an estimated total number potential

6   purchasers.

1   36.   The method of claim 22, wherein the step of assessing comprises periodically determining

2   whether the number of remaining tickets is within a predetermined range.

1   37.   The method of claim 22, wherein the step of determining the initial number is done only

2   once for the event and the steps of assessing and changing are done periodically.